Checking of driving licences by the Police.

3. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether a policeman on traffic duty asked the driver of the car used by the Director of Public Health to stop the car in order to check the licence ;

(2) is it a fact that the Director of Public Health addressed a communication to the Commissioner of Police protesting against the action of the constable ;

(3) was any explanation taken from the constable;

(4) if so, will a copy of the same be placed on the table;

(5) will a copy of the reply sent to the Director of Public Health by the Police Commissioner be also placed on the table of the House;

(6) are the drivers of any cars in the State exempted from checking their licences by the Police Department?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) No.

(4) The question does not arise in view of answer to sub-division No. (3).

(5) The correspondence is confidential.

(6) No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:—When there was a protest from the Head of the Department may I know why the Commissioner of Police did not ask any explanation from the Police Constable? Is it because that the contents of the protest were such that he did not think it necessary to ask for any explanation?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—It was not exactly a case of protest. The matter was explained to the Head of the Department and then he was satisfied.

Mr. E. P. Bhaskara Menon:—Will it be possible to know what kind of explanation it was?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—There is no harm in telling the House. This checking of cars is a new procedure which was started only very recently and the Director of Public Health was not in the know of things. This was explained to him.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I know whether there are specific rules to make papers confidential?

Mr. President:—It is for the Government to decide.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—So the criterion is the will of the Government?

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—Has the Director of Public Health any right to protest against the action of the Police Constable? Is he above law?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—He only asked for an explanation why this checking was done. It is not a case of protest

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:—Was the licence actually checked by the Policeman?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—It was checked.

Mr. K M. Ibrahim:—Just to safeguard the rights of the non-officials should not there be some fixed rule to decide whether a paper is confidential or not?

Mr. President:—The President cannot force the Government to make rules.

Appointment—Vadakkancheri Munsiff.

4. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar**:—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) the date on which the vacancy of the Vadakkancheri Munsiff, caused by the death of Mr: Raman, was brought to their notice;

(2) the date on which the vacancy was filled up?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar:—(1) 3rd Edavom 1110.

(2) 25th Edavam 1110.

Mr P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know whether the vacancy was not caused in the course of the midsummer vacation which extended to six weeks?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar:— Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Had not reports reached Government from the late Munsiff before his demise requesting leave for two months from the date of the reopening of the Court on the 30th of Medom?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar:— A report had been received.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— May I know when?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar:— I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— Was it not before the reopening of the Court?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar:— I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:— The vacancy was filled up on the 26th of Edavom. May I know when the officer took charge?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar:— I cannot say off-hand. I want notice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:— What is the delay in making the appointment?

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